



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Medieval Pageant and Jousting to Launch Library's Summer Reading Program

SAN DIEGO – To kick off the City of San Diego Public Library's Summer Reading Program, a special, medieval-themed event will be held Tuesday, June 14 at 10 a.m. at the City Heights/Weingart Branch Library. The event will be free and open to the public.

The event will begin with a pageant that includes the royal princes, princesses, and knights of our local City Heights schools. At 10:30 a.m., there will be a joust including knights on horses and broadsword ground fighters.

The Library's annual Summer Reading Program, held at all City libraries from June 15 through Aug. 15, encourages children to read throughout the summer to reinforce the skills that they have learned over the school year. For children up to 12 years old, the theme of the program is "Dragons, Dreams & Daring Deeds." The program's theme for teens is "Joust Read." Participants can earn prizes and special coupons as rewards for their demonstrated reading efforts.

The City Heights/Weingart Branch will have several entertainment programs during the summer that support children's literacy. This summer, the branch library will display an art exhibit inspired by the medieval period and in conjunction with Hoover High and Monroe Clark Middle schools. This exhibition will culminate with a celebration of the artists and art auction later this summer.

The Library began the Summer Reading Program in 1924. The goals of the program are to keep children and teens reading, learning and improving their reading skills, and stretching their imaginations during the summer. Reading improves literacy and helps students do better in school. Last year, 23,000 children and teens enrolled in the program. More than 38,000 attended program events.

The Summer Reading Program is sponsored by donations from the Friends of the City Heights/Weingart Branch, San Diego Revitalization Corp., Turner Construction Co., KD Development, 7-11, California Printing Consultants, San Diego Natural History Museum, San Diego Aerospace Museum, Renaissance Faire, Carl's Jr., Feld Entertainment Inc. and the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus, READ/San Diego, HomeTown Buffet and many others.

The City Heights/Weingart Branch is located at 3795 Fairmount Ave. For more information, contact Anne Defazio, Youth Services Librarian, at 619-641-6100.

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<http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/>